

We claim:

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- 1 1. A call processing method for determining that a call has been call forwarded
2 comprising:
3 sending an initial address message having a redirection counter set to a maximum
4 allowed value;
5 receiving a response message in response to the initial address message; and
6 analyzing the response message to determine if the call has been forwarded.
 - 1 2. The call processing method of claim 1, further comprising initiating fraud prevention
2 activity.
 - 1 3. The call processing method of claim 2 wherein the fraud prevention activity includes
2 terminating the call.
 - 1 4. The call processing method of claim 1, further comprising accessing a database to
2 obtain information indicative of whether the call represents unauthorized use of a
3 communications network.
 - 1 5. The call processing method of claim 1, wherein the initial address message is an
2 Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN) User Part (ISUP) protocol Initial Address
3 Message.
 - 1 6. The call processing method of claim 1, further comprising sending another initial
2 address message having another redirection counter set to a predetermined value if it is
3 undetermined whether the call has been forwarded as a result of the analyzing step.

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1 7. The call processing method of claim 6, wherein the predetermined value is zero.

1 8. A method of processing a call, comprising:

2 determining whether the call is a forwarded call;

3 responsive to a determination that the call is a forwarded call, preventing the call from

4 being completed; and

5 initiating fraud prevention activity.

1 9. The method of processing a call of claim 8, wherein initiating fraud prevention

2 activity comprises :

3 determining whether a dialed telephone number is subject to a call restriction;

4 determining a telephone station to which the call will be connected;

5 testing a second telephone number associated with the telephone station; and

6 terminating the call if the second telephone number is subject to the call restriction.

1 10. The method of processing a call of claim 8, wherein said step of determining whether

2 a call has been forwarded does not utilize a telecommunications switch through which the

3 forwarded call passes.

1 11. The method of processing a call of claim 8, wherein determining whether a call is a

2 forwarded call comprises:

3 sending an initial address message having a redirection counter set to a maximum

4 allowed value;

5 receiving a response message in response to the initial address message; and

6 analyzing the response message to determine if the call has been forwarded.

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1 12. The call processing method of claim 11, further comprising sending another initial
2 address message having another redirection counter set to a predetermined value if it is
3 undetermined whether the call has been forwarded as a result of the analyzing step.

1 13. The call processing method of claim 12, wherein the predetermined value is zero.

1 14. A method of processing a call, comprising:
2 determining whether a call is forwarded call; and
3 responsive to a determination that the call is a forwarded, initiating fraud prevention
4 activity in connection with processing the call,
5 wherein initiating fraud prevention activity comprises accessing a database to obtain
6 information indicative of whether the call represents unauthorized use of a communications
7 network.

1 15. The method of processing a call of claim 14, wherein determining whether a call is a
2 forwarded call includes determining whether the call will be completed to a dialed number.

1 16. The method of processing a call of claim 14, wherein determining whether a call is a
2 forwarded call comprises:
3 sending an initial address message having a redirection counter set to a predetermined
4 value;
5 receiving a response message in response to the initial address message indicating
6 whether the redirection counter was incremented; and

7 analyzing the response message to determine if the call has been forwarded.

1 17. The method of processing a call of claim 16, wherein the initial address message is an
2 Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN) User Part (ISUP) protocol Initial Address
3 Message.

1 18. The method of processing a call of claim 16, further comprising sending another
2 initial address message having another redirection counter set to another predetermined value
3 if it is undetermined whether the call has been forwarded as a result of the analyzing step.

1 19. The method of processing a call of claim 18, wherein the another predetermined
2 value is zero.

1 20. A call processing method for terminating a forwarded call, comprising:
2 sending an initial address message having a redirection counter set to a maximum
3 allowed value;
4 receiving a response message in response to the initial address message;
5 analyzing the response message to determine if the call has been forwarded; and
6 terminating the call in response to a determination that the call has been forwarded.

1 21. The call processing method of claim 20, wherein the initial address message is an
2 Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN) User Part (ISUP) protocol Initial Address
3 Message.

1 22. The call processing method of claim 20, further comprising sending another initial
2 address message having another redirection counter set to a predetermined value if it is
3 undetermined whether the call has been forwarded as a result of the analyzing step

1 23. The call processing method of claim 22, wherein the predetermined value is zero.

1 24. A method of preventing forwarded calls from connecting, comprising:

2 generating an initial address message based on a first telephone number associated
3 with a call from a first telephone station, the initial address message having a redirection
4 counter set to a predetermined value;

5 attempting to increment a value of the redirection counter when a switch attempts to
6 forward the call to a second telephone number associated with a respective telephone station,
7 wherein the second telephone number is not a dialed telephone number;

8 preventing the call from being connected to the second telephone station if the attempt
9 to increment the value of the redirection counter fails; and

10 connecting the call to the second telephone station if the attempt to increment the
11 value of the redirection counter is successful.

1 25. The method of preventing forwarded calls from connecting of claim 24, further
2 comprising generating a release message indicating that the call could not be set up if the call
3 is prevented from being connected to the second telephone station.

1 26. The method of preventing forwarded calls from connecting of claim 24, further
2 comprising initiating fraud prevention activity if the attempt to increment the value of the
3 redirection counter fails.

1 27. The method of preventing forwarded calls from connecting of claim 24, further
 2 comprising setting the value of the redirection counter to a maximum allowed value when the
 3 initial address message is generated.

1 28. The method of preventing forwarded calls from connecting of claim 24, wherein the
 2 initial address message is an Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN) User Part (ISUP)
 3 protocol Initial Address Message.

1 29. The method of preventing forwarded calls from connecting of claim 25, further
 2 comprising generating another initial address message associated with the call if the release
 3 message is generated.

1 30. The method of preventing forwarded calls from connecting of claim 25, further
 2 comprising generating another initial address message associated with the call and having a
 3 redirection counter set to another predetermined value, if the release message is generated.

1 31. The method of preventing forwarded calls from connecting of claim 30, wherein the
 2 another predetermined value is zero.